

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A thin-film coated toner comprising:

a powder toner, with a softening temperature ranging from 50 to 150°C; and

a surface of the powder toner coated substantially continuously with a thin film comprising a urea-base thermosetting resin, wherein an average film thickness of the thin film is 0.005 to 1 µm and said powder toner is a ground toner;

(i) wherein the urea-base resin is formed by resinifying a urea-base resin precursor mixture which consists essentially of at least either one of a urea and a urea derivative and at least either one of a formaldehyde and formaldehyde derivative on the surface of the powder toner, while avoiding fusing the powder toner, and

(ii) wherein the toner is defined by a true sphericity (DSF) according to the following formula I of 0.85 or more;

$$DSF = m/M \quad I$$

wherein m represents a minimum diameter of a projection drawing of the toner and M represents a maximum diameter of the projection drawing of the same.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 1, wherein said powder toner has a volume average particle size, before being coated, of 0.1 μm to 20 μm .

15. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 14, wherein said volume average particle size is 15 μm or less.

16. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 14, wherein said volume average particle size is 10 μm or less.

17. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 14, wherein said volume average particle size is at least 0.5 μm .

18. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 14, wherein said volume average particle size is at least 1.0 μm .

19. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 1, wherein said thin-film coated toner has volume average particle size of 0.1 to 20 μm .

20. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 19, wherein said volume average particle size is 15 μm or less.

21. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 19, wherein said volume average particle size is 10 μm or less.

22. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 19, wherein said volume average particle size is at least 0.5 μm .

23. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 19, wherein said volume average particle size is at least 1.0 μm .

24. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 1, wherein said thin film has an average thickness of 0.01 μm or more.

25. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 24, wherein said thin film has an average thickness of 0.02 μm or more.